

Boxborough Energy Committee September 2014 Minutes

Date/Location: Wednesday, September 10, 2014, Town Hall

Attending: Members: Francie Nolde, Margo Webber, Santiago Tapia-Perez, Richard Garrison

BOS Representative: None

Guests: None

Members Absent: Larry Grossman, Abby Reip, Kesahva Srivastava, Vince Amoroso

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 8, 2014, Town Hall.

Minutes

General business

- August 2014 minutes were approved. Next meeting will be October 8, 2014.
- The committee decided to check with the Blanchard School about setting up a table at back to school night. If there were no other tables set up, the Energy Committee might not set a table up.
- Earlier in the Day Francie attended a meeting with Selina Shaw and David Lindberg from the Town of Boxborough, Scott Edwards and Nick Lawlor from LELD, Ani Krishnan and Rebecca Davis of MAPC and Kelly Brown of DOER to discuss interactions between LELD, Boxborough and MAPC under the new management. The discussion was also about the MAPC grant. MAPC will extend the grant another year. Francie said that LELD indicated that they do not want to negotiate any deals or enter into any grants that will required Massachusetts Regulatory requirements be met. LELD said they would be happy to meet with the Energy committee and hear what the EnCom wants, but has not put aside any money for projects. LELD said that they already have some programs in place for the residents; free home audits and net metering. LELD also indicated they will not offer any rebates or incentives to anyone installing solar systems. LELD will also not deal with solar systems that are installed by a third party and leased. Residents have to go to a bank and fund their own system. Littleton does have a community shared solar system that LELD has approved and LELD is willing to work with shared solar systems.
- Margo indicated she had reviewed the Town electric use data and found the library had the second highest electric use. Only the school had a higher use. With the limited number of hours the library is open, it is surprising the library uses more electricity than the Town Hall, Police or Fire Departments. Francie said she would contact Maureen to see if they would be willing to have a free LELD audit.
- Francie said Abby has agreed to work on the website and is looking for a second volunteer. No one volunteered.

Main Discussion

The main discussion was about Solarize Boxborough. Santiago had summarized the data to date from the survey monkey. To date, 149 people have filled out the survey. 76 of the 149 were extremely interested and 42 of the 149 were very interested. The Committee decided to proceed

with a public “Information” Forum and to hold the forum during the third week in November, either the 18th or 19th. Francie agreed to check on the availability of the meeting room at the library and to look in to advertising methods to inform the public about the meeting. Margo agreed to contact Jim Elkind to make a presentation at the meeting. The committee will also contact Arnie Epstein, the chairman of the Stow Solarize Challenge, to see if he could talk at the Solarize program.

Action Items

- Abby will stop survey monkey at the end of September and submit receipts for the Solar Monkey survey to Francie for reimbursement.
- Santiago will do a final evaluation from the survey monkey after the survey closes on September 30. Santiago will summarize all the comments for the committee to review.
- Francie will talk to Maureen about getting an LELD free electric audit of the library and about reserving the meeting room in November for the informational meeting on Solarize Boxborough.
- Francie will find out how to get a flyer in the Blanchard Bits electronic newsletter and in the backpacks of students informing them about the informational meeting on Solarize Boxborough.
- Margo will contact Jim Elkind to see if he can do a presentation on the Solarize Program.
- Margo will work with LELD on finding a way to get the monthly electric data into the MEI database.